

MANSFIELD AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
DRAFT Minutes of December 7, 2010 meeting
Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building, Conference Room B, 7:30 p.m.

1. Chairman Al Cyr called the meeting to order at 7:40.

PRESENT: Al Cyr, Charlie Galgowski, Ed Wazer, Vicky Wetherell, Meredith Poehlitz, , Chris Dittrich, Carol Stearns, Kathleen Paterson, Jennifer Kaufman (staff)

2. Minutes of the November 2, 2010, meeting were approved.

3. Committee members shared memories of former committee member, Bill Palmer, who passed away recently, and signed a card to send to his family. He will be missed.

Old Business

3. *Farm Tax Incentives Plan of Action* Subcommittee members recommended the following actions:

-The farm buildings tax exemption would be applicable to the most farms, so it would be the preferred option.

-Such a tax incentive should be included in a list of possible incentives and actions to promote agribusiness in town, including a Right to Farm ordinance.

-Before submitting a report with recommended actions to the Council, the committee should sponsor a forum and survey for farmers to get their input.

The full committee voted to support this recommendation. A subcommittee was formed to set up a forum and survey to be held in February. Kathleen will draft a quarterly report to the Council outlining the committee's actions this fall (for review at the January meeting).

4. *Agriculture Zoning Update* The subcommittee will meet with Greg Padick, to address final details and report to the committee at the February meeting.

New Business

5. *Policy on Ag Leases* A subcommittee will bring recommendations to the full committee at the February meeting.

6. *Presentation to the Sustainability Committee meeting on January 26 at 5 to 6:30 p.m.* Jennifer will ask if the presentation can be made at a later hour.

7. Items for future agendas

Review draft of quarterly report to Council (Jan).

Review ag lease policy, forum and survey planning, Ag zoning review (Feb.)

Draft incentives action plan, ag talking points/ publicity campaign (Mar).

9. The meeting adjourned at 9:00.